



NEWS RELEASE

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State Health Department Urges Use of National Poison Control Phone Number

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is reminding parents and caregivers to use the national poison control phone number for emergency poison consultation.

The national phone number – 800.222.1222 – was established in 2003 to allow 24-hour, 7-day-a-week access to poison control services anywhere in the nation through a single toll-free phone number.

“Unfortunately, it appears that most North Dakotans are not aware of the new national phone number,” said Carol Meidinger, director of the North Dakota Department of Health’s Injury Prevention Program. “In fact, 61 percent of the North Dakota calls over a recent four-month period were dialed into the old number. Although those calls currently are transferred to the national number, the old number eventually will be discontinued.”

The national phone number is answered at certified poison control centers located throughout the nation and staffed by nurses and pharmacists. Hennepin Regional Poison Control Center in Minneapolis, Minn., is the certified center that receives phone calls from North Dakota callers.

North Dakotans can contact the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2286 (press 1) to receive telephone stickers and refrigerator magnets with the new national toll-free number.

For more information, contact Carol Meidinger, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4536.

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